

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Dominican Republic
Program Title:	Democracy, Governance and Human Rights
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	517-009
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2006 Obligation:	\$1,980,000 DA; \$1,980,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:	\$2,000,000 DA; \$2,000,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	2002
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2007

Summary: USAID is the principal U.S. government agency and the lead international donor on governance issues, with unusually large influence with top Dominican government officials in pushing for increased democratic reforms. USAID chairs donor working groups for justice and anti-corruption. USAID's program and technical leadership have resulted in increased international community awareness of governance problems, influenced multi-donor reform priorities, and led cohesive donor-government dialogue. During 2005, USAID added activities to achieve USG international crime and regional stability goals. The program strengthens civil society to provide a counter-balance to political and economic interests in government decision making; trains justice officials and helps design and implement management and policy reforms to make justice services more efficient, fair, and accessible to the average Dominican; and provides technical assistance and advocacy for electoral reform, to strengthen political party accountability to citizens and to build an effective national anticorruption program.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2006 Program:

Promote and Support Anti-Corruption Reforms (\$350,000 DA, \$1,230,000 ESF). USAID activities seek to prevent, detect, and sanction corruption in government institutions. USAID is training a complex crimes investigation unit, implementing a pilot competitive public procurement system in the Attorney General's office, establishing Freedom of Information offices in six government agencies, supporting the National Anti-Corruption Commission as well as the passage of new laws for public financial administration and public procurement. USAID is financing a study documenting corruption in the justice sector, schools, public hospitals, and motor vehicle administration. New activities are beginning such as social audits of public works projects, whistle blowing activities, citizen oversight committees, and the design of a mass media campaign. USAID continues to fund activities in congressional monitoring and civil society advocacy to increase the transparency of political party finance and civil registry operations. Principal contractors and grantees: DPK Consulting, Casals, and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Citizen Participation (Participación Ciudadana) and Justice Foundation (Fundación Institucionalidad y Justicia).

Promote and Support Credible Elections Processes (\$750,000 DA). USAID is supporting free and fair Congressional and Municipal elections in May 2006 by training 3,500 domestic observers and a cadre of international observers, conducting a get-out-the-vote campaign, reporting on preparing for the elections and reducing political tension, and supporting candidate workshops and debates. USAID continues to support activities to build institutional sustainability of the country's leading advocacy NGO, Citizen Participation (Participación Ciudadana). Principal grantee: Citizen Participation.

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$600,000 DA). USAID is training 500 young political

party leaders to strengthen understanding of good governance, accountability and efficient government service delivery. USAID is emphasizing the need for the implementation of the career civil service law by distinguishing politics from good public administration, and stress the importance of oversight, audit, and internal controls in democratic governance. Principal grantee: Citizen Participation (Participación Ciudadana), a local NGO.

Strengthen the Justice Sector (\$280,000 DA; \$750,000 ESF). USAID's activities continue to focus on training public defenders, prosecutors, and judges in the oral accusatorial criminal justice system. USAID is intensively supporting the public prosecutor's office and court system in seven pilot districts to implement re-engineered administrative management systems that are consistent with the implementation of the new criminal procedures code. USAID is supporting legal assistance and aid through local NGOs and lead development of a new Alternative Dispute Resolution system. New activities are beginning that establish internal inspection offices and focus on increasing transparency within the justice sector. Principal contractor and grantee: DPK Consulting and local NGOs; Citizen Participation and Justice Foundation.

FY 2007 Program:

Promote and Support Anti-Corruption Reforms (\$150,000 DA, \$1,500,000 ESF). USAID plans to continue support for social audits, whistle blowing, and other citizen oversight activities. Grants to journalists and media organizations to improve quality of investigative reporting will be initiated. A mass-media, citizen-education campaign to encourage Dominicans to denounce and resist petty corruption will be launched. USAID would continue pilot activities to help the government respond to freedom of information act (FOIA) requests and implement new procurement legislation. USAID will support advocacy aimed at reducing corruption in the emission of national identity cards and improving service delivery in the registrar's offices. USAID support will continue for civil society advocacy to increase transparency of political party finance and congressional monitoring to document voting patterns, attendance, and committee deliberations. Principal contractor and grantees will remain the same.

Promote and Support Credible Elections Processes (\$950,000 DA). USAID will continue to support Participación Ciudadana's institutional sustainability, with the goal of completing USAID assistance in FY 08. Funds will be used to support domestic and international observation efforts for the 2008 Presidential elections and for local monitoring of elections preparations and issue-oriented campaigning. USAID plans to complete the training program for young political leaders. Principal grantee will remain the same.

Strengthen the Justice Sector (\$900,000 DA, \$500,000 ESF). USAID plans to continue to support activities for the implementation of the accusatorial criminal procedures code with an alternative dispute resolution system. USAID will support activities to detect, prevent, and sanction corrupt behavior in the justice sector and continue assistance for training investigative forensics teams for criminal cases in a few judicial districts. Principal contractors and grantees will remain the same.

Performance and Results: USAID led the international community's efforts to push the Dominican anti-corruption agenda forward. Corruption case prosecution and congressional approval of key legislation was slower than expected, but the reform agenda would have stalled without USAID leadership. USAID-funded NGOs and U.S. government public diplomacy have kept transparency issues on the front-page, including those related to the 2003 illegal banking scandal. The USAID-funded NGO monitoring of the Congress was a first in the history of the DR. Citizens, for the first time, are receiving information on Congressional agendas, attendance, and voting. Community groups are beginning to understand the role of Congress and are channelling their concerns to elected representatives. USAID facilitated consensus among civil society, political parties, Congress, and the national electoral tribunal on a draft law to make political party financing more transparent. USAID support implemented re-engineered administrative management systems for prosecutors, public defenders, and courts, and trained 456 justice officials in the new accusatorial criminal procedures. USAID trained the first interagency organized crime investigation and prosecution task force made up of 40 officials from five

Dominican organizations, doubled the number of public defenders, and increased by 14 fold the number of indigents who received public defense services. At the end of the strategy, results expected include stronger Dominican institutions due to greater social awareness of the government's role in a democracy and pressure for increased accountability; more accessible criminal justice with faster case resolution; and reduced corruption in pilot institutions with greater demand for prevention, detection, and sanction of corrupt public officials.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Dominican Republic

517-009 Democracy, Governance and Human Rights	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2004		
Obligations	8,522	8,482
Expenditures	2,918	3,508
Unliquidated	5,604	4,974
Fiscal Year 2005		
Obligations	2,465	2,976
Expenditures	2,916	2,494
Through September 30, 2005		
Obligations	10,987	11,458
Expenditures	5,834	6,002
Unliquidated	5,153	5,456
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA		
Obligations	1,980	1,980
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006		
Obligations	1,980	1,980
Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA		
Obligations	2,000	2,000
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	14,967	15,438

